

# Camp Ranoca North/Challenge

## Parent Information Packet

### Summer 2014



**RALEIGH** Parks,  
Recreation and  
Cultural Resources  
[parks.raleighnc.gov](http://parks.raleighnc.gov)

Durant Nature Park  
8305 Camp Durant Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27614  
919-870-2871  
919-870-2872





# Parent Information Packet

## Camp Ranoca North/Challenge – Durant Nature Park - 2014

### Welcome to Camp and Durant Nature Park

We have been preparing for your camper's arrival for some time now and are extremely excited for camp to begin. The staff are looking forward to another great summer filled with fun, smiles, new skills, and new friends.

### About Durant Nature Park

Durant Nature Park has 237 beautiful acres of forested trails, 2 lakes and a shady creek for campers to explore. Campbell Lodge serves as Camp Ranoca's headquarters. Ranoca shares the Park with Camp Friendly, located at a separate facility on the North side of the Park.

### Directions to the Durant Nature Park South Entrance and Campbell Lodge (3237 Spottswood St., Raleigh, 27615)

From Capital Blvd/US 1 NORTH turn west onto Gresham Lake Rd. (Gresham Lake Rd is just north of the 540-interchange. ) After 0.5 miles, turn RIGHT onto Burwell St. Follow Burwell to its end and turn LEFT onto Spottswood St. The Durant Nature Park south entrance is just past the chain-link fence on your RIGHT. You cannot get to the south entrance and Campbell Lodge from Durant Rd and the Park's north entrance.

\*If you are exiting off 540 from the west you will need to make a U-turn on Capital Blvd to find Gresham Lake Rd on the right.

### Calling Camp Ranoca

If you know that your child will not be at camp for the day or will be arriving late, please call and let us know. Also, if you will be picking your child up early, call or send in a note so we can have them ready for you. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any other concerns or problems that may occur. As of June 16<sup>th</sup>, our phone number is: **919-870-2872**. If you have an emergency and cannot reach us, you may call the Durant Nature Park Office at: **919-870-2871**. If you have questions about camp registration, space availability, withdrawals or transfers, please contact the camp registration office at: **919-996-4800 option #2** or email [camp.registration@raleighnc.gov](mailto:camp.registration@raleighnc.gov)

### Typical Camp Schedule

8:00am-9:00am **Rides in**  
9:00-9:30am **Morning Assembly**  
9:30-11:45am **Groups Rotate through Camp Activities**  
11:45am-12:15pm **Lunch (Please send one)**  
12:15-12:45pm **Rest Time**  
12:45-3:45pm **Groups Rotate through Camp Activities**  
10:30-10:45am and 3:45-4:00pm **Snacks (Please send)**  
4:00-4:30pm **Closing Assembly**  
4:30-5:30pm **Rides out**

### Activities

Four groups rotate through four activities. The typical activities include: arts and crafts, nature, paddling on the lake, outdoor games, water play or fishing. The best made plans can change due to weather, water, or air quality concerns and staff will be prepared with inside activities. On pool days, we are gone from camp for part of the day swimming at a City of Raleigh pool.

### Camp Themes

Session 1 (June 16-20) *"Cartoon Week"*  
Session 2 (June 23-27) *"Dinosaur Week"*  
Session 3 (July 7-11) *"Wild West Week"*  
Session 4 (July 14-18) *"Animal Planet Week"*  
Session 5 (July 21-25) *"CSI/Detective Week"*  
Session 6 (July 28-August 1) *"Cruise Ship Week"*  
Session 7 (August 4-8) *"Hollywood Week"*

We encourage your child to dress up every Wednesday based on the week's camp theme!

### The 2014 North and Challenge Staff

We have hired a talented staff team! Beyond the talents, enthusiasm and smiles they bring, all staff attend Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource trainings.

These extensive courses emphasize basic philosophies about appropriate developmental activities, various learning styles, conflict management, positive behavior reinforcement, diversity, skills, certifications and much more. All staff must pass a criminal background screening prior to working with Camp Ranoca. All staff will wear camp shirts and a photo ID badge. You may also see our Counselor in Training Volunteers who are younger and will be wearing different t-shirts and our Raleigh Summer Youth Employee who will be learning valuable job skills while assisting us at camp.

## **Supervisor**

The Durant Nature Park Manager plans camp throughout the year and hires seasonal staff. The Park Manager supervises the Camp Directors, who administrate the camp. Amy Corbally is the Durant Nature Park Manager and is happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Amy operates out of the Durant Nature Park Office and can be reached at (919) 870-2871.

## **Drop off/ Pick up**

Drop-off: 8:00am–9:00am; you will be required to sign your child in. Please do not drop off any earlier than 8:00am.

Pick up: 4:30-5:30pm

Late Fee Policy: \$5 for the first 10 minutes, \$1 for each minute after.

Payment is due at time of late pick-up. Habitual tardiness could result in participants' dismissal from the program.

Camp officially ends at 4:30pm. You should follow the cones into the pick up lane. When you arrive, staff will radio for your camper. Staff will greet you in the car lane and you will sign your camper out. A security tag is required for pickup. Staff will ask to see this security tag **everyday** regardless of our familiarity with you. There will be no need to get out of your vehicle! If you need to drop your child off late/pick your child up early, a written note or phone call is required to ensure that we have staff available to assist you.

We will have messages everyday on our message board which will be clearly visible when dropping off and picking up your child. We will relay messages to you via this board such as camp reminders, theme week notices, etc.). We may also contact you via e-mail to relay important messages/reminders regarding camp.

## **Camper Sign-Out/Security Cards**

The Security Key Tag Identification process is in place to properly identify individuals that have the parental/legal guardian permission to sign-out a participant from any camp program. Legal guardians and other individuals listed on the participant registration form as an authorized pick up person will be issued a security key tag. Key tags may be obtained from the site on the first day of the camp program. Tags will only be issued to the individual listed on the registration form with a photo ID. A parent/guardian will not be issued multiple key tags to be given to other individuals authorized to pick up the participant. A photo ID may be requested by program staff at any time to verify a person's identity even if the person has a security tag. Parent/Guardians should inform staff of any changes to the pick-up list in writing by contacting the Recreation Business Office (919-996-4800). Only parents/guardians who signed the registration form may make changes to the names listed as those who are authorized to pick up a participant. Parent/guardian's should inform anyone picking up a participant without a key tag that they will be required to show a picture identification card. Participants will not be released without proper photo identification.

## **Proper Camp Attire**

Please send your child to camp in cool, comfortable clothes that can get dirty. Closed toe tennis shoes are required at all times - sandals, crocs and flip-flops are not allowed. Please make sure to label all belongings. If something is misplaced, please check our Lost and Found located downstairs by the director's office. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is not responsible for any personal items lost or stolen at our programs.

## **What NOT to Bring**

**Cell phones**, jewelry, video games, iPods or other personal audio equipment, Game Boys, toys, stuffed animals, pets, pocket knives, aerosol cans, and water guns.

## **What TO Bring (Camp Necessities)**

Towel, Swimwear, Sunscreen, **Lunch & 2 Snacks**, Re-useable Water Bottle, Tennis Shoes.

**LABEL EVERYTHING.** *Please Note:* It is imperative that your child bring a water bottle **EACH** day! We request that your child bring a re-useable water bottle everyday instead of a recycled water bottle such as Deer Park, Aquafina, etc... Campers tend to play with these types of bottles and use them for purposes other than drinking. Staying hydrated in an outdoor summer camp is imperative. Thank you for assisting us with this.

## **Sunscreen & Insect Repellent**

This is an outdoor camp! Please apply sunscreen and insect repellent to your child before camp. There are opportunities for your child to reapply sunscreen at the lodge, before activities begin, at lunch, at afternoon snack, and any time during rides out. If you want your child to apply more frequently, please send sunscreen with a small strapped carry case for your camper. Staff may assist participants in applying sunscreen only to exposed skin that the participant cannot reach on their own. Spray or mist sunscreen/insect repellent are recommended and may not be shared with other program participants.

## **Camp Ranoca Age Policy**

Campers are grouped by birthdates in one of two North groups or one of two Challenge groups. It is our policy to not age a camper up, only to age down. In other words, a camper who is 8 years old cannot be aged up to Ranoca Challenge, however a camper that is 10 can be aged down to Ranoca North if you wish.

## **Group Numbers**

We maintain a 10:1 staff to camper ratio during activity periods.

### **Canoeing/Rafting**

Paddling at Durant is on the lake. Boat guards are present for safety and instruction and take an American Canoe Association Canoeing course in addition to other Departmental trainings. Counselors help with supervision. All campers wear personal floatation devices (life jackets) which we provide. We paddle (Challenge canoes and North rafts) several days each week as weather permits.

### **Pool Swimming and Wading**

All campers will be bused to a City of Raleigh pool (Optimist) two days each week (Mondays and Wednesdays). They will be swim tested. If campers do not pass the swim test, they will be required to wear a life jacket and stay in the shallow area of the pool. Campers may retake the swim test at the next swim trip, if requested. If parents/guardians do not wish for their child to take the swim test and would like their child to be automatically placed in a life jacket, please let the camp staff know.

Wading in Secret Creek, sprinkler and water games also help keep campers cool in the summer.

### **Medication**

Only medications which are medically necessary and cannot be scheduled outside the hours of the recreation program will be given during the program. A medication permission form must be signed by a parent or guardian. All medications must be contained in a prescription bottle and appropriately labeled. Only one week's worth of medication will be accepted.

### **Medical Treatment**

We believe in prevention! Key staff are certified in First Aid/CPR/Epi and have access to a First Aid Kit. All staff have been instructed in First Aid basics and carry a basic first aid kit. Every effort will be made to contact parents/guardians in the case of a medical emergency.

### **Sickness/Illness**

Your child should remain home from our programs if they have any of the following:

- Fever (100 degrees or higher)
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Sore throat
- Contagious rash, chicken pox, pink eye, ring worm, lice, etc.
- Other conditions that would make their time at camp uncomfortable (extensive poison ivy, hives, etc.)

Please allow your child to be symptom free (no fever, coughing, rash, etc.) for 24 hours before returning to the program.

### **Behavior Management Policy**

We utilize and encourage the practice of praise and positive reinforcement as effective methods of behavior management. We believe that when participants receive positive and understanding interactions, they can develop good self-concept, problem-solving abilities, and self-discipline. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department supports and practices the following procedures for behavior problems:

1. Initially, participants will be given a quiet reprimand/verbal warning.
2. If behavior persists after verbal warning, a Behavior Action Plan will be implemented to identify specific behaviors and work with the participant and parent/guardian to develop appropriate behavior management solutions.
3. If behavior problems continue after implementation of the Behavior Action Plan, a first Incident Report will be presented to the parent/guardian.
4. Additional behavior problems will constitute a second Incident Report presented to the parent/guardian and a possible two (2) full-day suspension from the program may occur (no refunds will be given for the days suspended). The parent/guardian may be requested to pick up the participant within an hour of the initial contact to the parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian does not pick up the participant within an hour, a late fee may be charged.
5. If a behavior problem persists, a third Incident Report will be presented and the participant may be asked to leave the program. A two (2) full day suspension will be issued to the participant while the Incident Reports are being reviewed.
6. For severe offenses, such as but not limited to: fighting/hitting, theft, vandalism, bullying, possession of weapons or drugs, severe verbal threats, sexual misconduct, or any other safety related behavior, the participant may be suspended or dismissed from the program immediately. Any of the above mentioned behaviors may result in immediate suspension or expulsion from program.
7. Participants will not be disciplined in camp for behavior that occurred outside of camp hours, even at parental requests.
8. Participation in camp activities during program hours is required.

### **Tick-Talk**

We live in a region with high tick population. Ticks may carry serious diseases and to help protect campers, we do twice daily tick checks. You should check your camper also, especially the hair, groin and underarm regions. Early tick removal may reduce the risk of infection of some tick-borne diseases. Some insect repellants may help protect against ticks. If a tick is found on a camper, it will be immediately removed, a counselor will circle the bite and parents will be notified at pick up. Contact your health provider if your camper develops fever, headache, fatigue, or rash. Please consult the Center for Disease Control's tick info website if you have further questions

<http://www.cdc.gov/lyme> or call: 1-800-232-4636.